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**From:** rjsauer@embarqmail.com [rjsauer@embarqmail.com]  
**Sent:** 8/10/2017 7:06:00 PM  
**To:** contactgov [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7ce8741105614afe8a8cc762547a4b2c-contactgov]  
**Subject:** Oppose Offshore Drilling

Dear Gov. Roy Cooper,

Thank you for your leadership in opposing offshore drilling and exploration off our coast. We, the undersigned, are writing to ask you to respond to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Request for Information: Preparation of 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program. We oppose expanding offshore drilling to North Carolina's coast – please urge BOEM to exclude all new planning areas from their Draft Proposed Program.

We also urge BOEM to take the following actions to protect our priceless ocean ecosystems and coastal assets as they develop a new program:

- Consider the more than 130 municipal resolutions and letters from coastal states opposing or expressing concern with offshore drilling and exploration, as well as the countless letters submitted by business leaders, fishing groups, and elected officials, including those submitted during the 2017-2022 five-year program planning process.
- Protect endangered species dependent on healthy ocean habitats, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration.
- Protect ecologically valuable and vulnerable marine areas, including marine sanctuaries and national marine monuments, from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration.

Coastal stakeholders are fervently opposed to expanding offshore drilling in our oceans. With such long-standing, broad, diverse, and scientifically based opposition to leasing in new areas, there is little reason to reconsider the previous conclusion made in the context of the 2017-2022 Five-Year Program. The unlikely benefits that might accrue from offshore drilling do not outweigh the significant risks. Please protect our coast and ask BOEM not to schedule any new lease sales in these important marine areas. Also, Mr. Cooper VIGOROUSLY oppose the Devious Atlantic Coast Pipeline. On the map of the proposed route, note the lateral that starts in Greenville county, VA, and runs toward Chesapeake Bay. I strongly suspect that is intended to supply a natural gas liquefaction station, intended to supply freighters to EXPORT natural gas to the world. I believe that presents clear and present danger to the entire East Coast and especially to the corners of VA and NC. We, as a state, need to be outspoken against this unnecessary and DANGEROUS pipeline project.

Sincerely, Robert Sauer, Hickory, NC